

least we have the freedom to do so. My Peers and I are beginning to understand the sacrifices and support Veterans made to give us the freedom we enjoy today. I Thank veterans for fulfilling their obligation to freedom as I am beginning to fulfill mine.

APRIL SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Gotham Avenue School in the Elmont Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2003. Mr. Marshal Zucker is the Principal at Gotham Avenue School, and Dr. Maria Palandra is the Superintendent of Schools in the Elmont Union Free School District. I also acknowledge Joy Madera, a Trustee on the Elmont Union Free School District Board of Education who helped arrange the school's selection. The school has 840 students in grades Prekindergarten through 6, with 65 members on staff.

The Gotham Avenue School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children. The Elmont Union Free School District is a model of excellency with over 4,000 elementary school kids, which encompass over 70 spoken languages.

The school was one of two schools in the district, and one of the total 24 chosen schools in New York State, to win the 2003 Business Council of New York State Pathfinder Award. The award is given for Outstanding Educational Improvement. The recognition and honor is truly extraordinary in light of the 2,900 New York State elementary schools eligible for the Pathfinder Award.

Principal Zucker credits Gotham Avenue's recent success to the school district's new curriculum initiative. The school is focusing more attention on teacher planning and class curriculum mapping. Teachers try to instill in every student that every one of them has the capability of being a successful learner.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Gotham Avenue School and I am proud to name them school of the month for April.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, in his State of the Union address to the Nation in January, President Bush acknowledged that the country faces many challenges and rightly said that "(w)e will not deny, will not ignore, we will not pass on our problems to other Congresses and future generations." These were noble words that spoke to the true spirit of America.

Unfortunately, the budget conference report denies or ignores many of the challenges we face and passes them along to our children and to our future leaders.

By insisting on new tax cuts for the wealthiest that we simply cannot afford, the budget blueprint will explode Federal deficits and debt for years to come. These piles of debt will be passed on to future generations and will severely weaken our ability to meet the funding challenges facing Social Security and Medicare because of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

This budget projects record deficits while paving the way for up to \$550 billion in new tax cuts. This budget agreement marks the worst deficits in our Nation's history. This historic achievement is at the same time that Republicans control both the Congress and the White House. What a sad legacy that is.

The result of this budget will be higher interest rates, the crowding out of private sector investment, and a reduction in long-term economic growth. Amazingly, in just two and a half years the \$5.6 trillion surplus that was projected when President Bush took office has been eliminated.

And not surprisingly, to make room for the latest round of non-stimulative tax cuts, the budget conference agreement again proposes cutbacks in domestic priorities like education, health care, transportation, and law enforcement—cuts that would have a significant negative impact on the vast majority of Americans.

I am not here just to condemn the Republican plan. In fact, I voted for an alternative, as did a few Republicans who objected to the Speaker's budget plan. The Democratic resolution would have adequately provided for education, would have provided \$528 billion for Medicare prescription drug benefit, and would have provided some tax cuts. We wanted to put some money in the pockets of American consumers likely to spend it to give this economy a boost, a jump. We wanted to give some money to businesses to encourage them to invest, some tax cuts to businesses to encourage them to invest. We had tax cuts too, just not as massive as those included in the president's proposal. Our proposal would have been balanced in the year 2010. We accumulated a trillion dollars less debt than the Republicans. We had a budget that was commendable. It was rejected.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that this budget takes us further down the wrong path. This policy threatens the long-term fiscal health of our nation.

I am proud to vote against this flawed policy.

HONORING LEXISNEXIS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize LexisNexis, a Dayton, Ohio company celebrating a very important milestone. LexisNexis, the first commercial, full-text legal information service, is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary this year. This company has more than 3,000 employees in Ohio and is headquartered in my district. It provides a service that has become a valuable information research tool to a wide range of professionals in the legal, government, business, and academic arenas.

Thirty years ago, LexisNexis launched the first online legal research system, an innovation that revolutionized the way legal and business research was conducted. Today, LexisNexis continues to revolutionize legal and business research by providing up-to-date information covering a variety of topics from legal documents to worldwide publications to legislative records. LexisNexis provides over a million and a half subscribers with a wealth of knowledge that is easily accessible.

As a lawyer and a lawmaker, I rely on the services provided by LexisNexis and am honored to recognize them today as a global leader in legal, news, and business information services. I congratulate LexisNexis on the success it has achieved over the past 30 years and wish the company and all of its 13,000 employees worldwide, continued success.

LexisNexis is truly deserving of this recognition and I am confident that it will maintain its commitment to deliver superior services and solutions to its customers over the next 30 years.

FALLEN HEROES IMMIGRANT SPOUSE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act, to address a situation of fundamental unfairness under current immigration law. Many of our active duty military are married to alien spouses who have applications pending for permanent legal residence. As the current law is written, should the U.S. citizen spouse die before a 2-year period of marriage is reached, the pending application of the non-citizen spouse is vacated. Widows and widowers of our men and women in uniform who are in the process of applying for a green card should not have their application process terminated if they are unfortunate enough to have lost their loved one prior to reaching the 2 year threshold.

In the 3rd District of North Carolina, where there are numerous military installations and facilities, one of my constituents, a Marine, was killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The spouse of this Marine is a

legal immigrant seeking to become a citizen and had been living in the 3rd District for 2 years and one month prior to her husband's death. Consequently her paperwork for a green card will proceed. However, it is incomprehensible to me that should this foreign spouse have been married for 1 year and 364 days her paper work would have been voided due to the death of her husband. That is wrong. The time limit should be eliminated for foreign spouses whose loved ones have given their life serving our Nation.

The Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act would amend Section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the 2 year marriage requirement for foreign spouses of U.S. citizens who die while serving. Additionally this legislation seeks to remedy a practice of charging families of non-citizen soldiers who are killed in the line of duty an \$80 fee for processing an application for posthumous citizenship. These brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the freedom and interests of the United States. There is no action more patriotic than dying for one's country. As such, the imposition of a fee to restart the application process for posthumous citizenship is an insult to the contribution these service men and women made to our national defense.

Please join me in supporting these common sense changes to our immigration process. We should not punish the families of our soldiers simply because they are unfortunate enough to have incurred the greatest loss of all with the death of their loved one in the service of our country.

COMMENDING AYNOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Aynor High School, of Aynor, South Carolina, for earning the prestigious Palmetto's Finest Award, recognizing it as the best high school in the state.

The Carolina First Palmetto's Finest Award is sponsored through a partnership between Carolina First Bank and SCASA. The award is based on extensive evaluations by colleagues and educators, and the school and community share the honor. This is the 25th anniversary of the award. The award was announced by Governor Mark Sanford on March 11, 2003.

Last fall, 38 schools submitted 17-page applications. The application process included elements on student achievement, faculty training, program goals and delivery systems, office practices and community involvement. Each nominee received an on-site visit by a peer review committee, and the 13 finalists received a second visit. From this process the four most outstanding schools are selected: two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

Dr. Darrell W. Ricketts, Principal of Aynor High School, as well as the teachers, staff, and students, have all worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone. Through their hard work and dedication, they serve as a great example to other schools in the First District and the state.

I wish Aynor High School further successes and achievements in the future.

HONORING LUNA ODLAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luna Odland, a volunteer who will be receiving the President's Award of the Alzheimer's Association for her work and tireless effort on behalf of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. The non-profit Alzheimer's Association currently has 81 local chapters throughout the Nation. For the past 25 years as a volunteer of the San Diego Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Luna Odland has been leading a support group for caregivers and professionals dealing with the challenges of Alzheimer's disease. She has served as a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association longer than anyone else in the Nation, and her group in Escondido, CA, is the Nation's longest running Alzheimer's support group.

Luna began her group unofficially in August of 1978 from her home before the San Diego Chapter was incorporated. She went on to become one of the founding members of the Chapter, serving on its Board of Directors from 1980 until 1990, and chairing the Patient and Family Services Committee.

Little was known about Alzheimer's disease back in the late 1970's, and Luna's group quickly began drawing large numbers of people from as far away as Santa Barbara, CA. When her group moved to the Joslyn Senior Center in 1980, where it still meets today, the second meeting was so large it had to be relocated to the auditorium.

Luna does not limit her involvement with caregivers to simply facilitating her group every month. She phones group members in between meetings to inquire how they are doing or remind them of the next meeting. She also assists them in locating resources and contacting the Association to help with whatever current issues that need attention.

Luna was also instrumental in the development of the "Morning Out Club", which was the first early-stage daycare program in the country for Alzheimer's patients. The "Morning Out Club" model is still in operation today and has been replicated in many sites.

Mr. Speaker, people who take the time to care for others in need are the best example of being an American. It is the dedication and selfless efforts of people like Luna Odland that make our country great and I ask that you join me in congratulating her for receiving this award, an honor which is well deserved.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to enhance and development, to provide for security and di-

versity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes:

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment that will do little more than punish the auto industry for the sin of building cars that people want to buy.

This amendment will force Americans to drive smaller cars that are less safe than what we drive now. Smaller cars mean more traffic fatalities, as noted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and confirmed by the National Academy of Sciences. Safety should not be sacrificed.

The auto industry is already moving on its own to increase fuel economy through the development and use of advance technologies such as hybrids and fuel cells. But they are doing so in a way that will produce cars that are safe and that people will actually want to buy. That is what we should be supporting.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the American people's right to drive safer cars and the ability of the auto industry to finish the job it is already doing.

DON'T RUSH TO EXTEND PATRIOT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, recent news reports indicate that some are proposing that Congress make permanent some or all of the provisions of the "USA PATRIOT Act" now scheduled to expire at the end of 2005. I find that a matter of concern.

Terrorist attacks must not go unanswered, and our law enforcement authorities need adequate tools to fight terrorists. However, I think that need must be carefully balanced with the need to preserve our civil liberties. In that context, I have had serious reservations about the additional authorities provided by the "Patriot Act."

My concerns have been somewhat allayed by the fact that many provisions of the Act are not permanent. So, I share the view expressed by an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News: "The jury is still very much out on whether the Patriot Act and its administration are consistent with constitutional safeguards and basic civil liberties. The sunset provisions should stay and the law should be subjected to a strong dose of sunshine."

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Apr. 11, 2003]

DON'T DROP SUNSET OF PATRIOT ACT

As a precautionary measure to ensure that legislation works as planned, Congress often adds a "sunset" date, meaning that the targeted provisions of the law will expire after a certain period unless Congress reauthorizes them.

The idea is to ensure Congress returns to the law for a thorough re-examination.

Congress wisely added sunset provisions to the USA Patriot Act, the anti-terrorism bill it passed one month after Sept. 11, 2001.

That 342-page act gave federal law enforcement sweeping new search-surveillance powers, including covert access to computers and financial records—even the right to take a secret peek at what's being checked out of the local library.